Fund allocation to DHR and research work undertaken by IT

1352. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to Department of Health Research during the year 2008-09;

(b) the details of research that has been undertaken by the DHR;

(c) the achievements of the Department so far in the field of health research; and

(d) what measures Government proposed to take the benefits of such research to the common masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) During the year 2008-09, a total allocation of Rs.531.75 crores is available for Department of Health Research, out of which Rs.396.00 crores is earmarked for Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

(b) to (d) The Department which has started functioning with effect from April, 2008, is still in its formative stage and as such it is yet to start research activities.

Measures to control quacks and magic healers

1353. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that large percentage of people are being duped by quacks, and many people are going to magic healers who are somewhat less expensive than quacks;

(b) if so, the comments of Government thereto;

(c) whether there is a strong need for reducing the dependence of the people, particularly the rural poor, on exploitative private healthcare;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the future action plan prepared to tackle quacks in all States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The State Medical Councils who grant registration to practitioners are empowered to take action against quacks. The provisions exist in Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to take action against unqualified/unregistered practitioners of medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions can be punished with imprisonment and fine under respective Acts. Since the responsibility of enforcement of statutory provisions is that of concerned State Governments, no data on quacks/magic healers is maintained by the Central Government.

Deaths due to Chikungunya and Dengue in Andhra Pradesh

1354. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many people are dying due to Chikungunya and Dengue all over the country especially in the agency areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh, particularly tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps to be taken to contain such diseases in each State and especially in Andhra Pradesh; and